

The President's Daily Brief

6 September 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Rains have slowed military action in South Vietnam's northern two provinces, but government forces report significant progress in other areas. *(Page 1)*

Tel Aviv seems certain to avenge the murder of Israeli Olympic participants. *(Page 2)*

Japanese officials are worried that recent leftist-inspired opposition to US military activities in Japan may spread. *(Page 3)*

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VIETNAM

Typhoon-spawned rains have slowed military action in the northern two provinces, but government forces report significant progress in other areas. Despite the rain, elements of the South Vietnamese 2nd Division have seized the western part of Fire Base Ross and are moving toward well-entrenched enemy units in the higher eastern portion of the base. Government clearing operations in northeastern Quang Tin Province have been sufficiently successful to allow some government units sent there over the weekend to return to the Quang Nam battle zone. In Military Region 3, the South Vietnamese 18th Division is making progress in its drive north of An Loc. One regiment has reached the Quan Loi Airfield that has been in enemy hands since 6 April. Press reports of its capture have not been confirmed, however.

Enemy forces in Pleiku Province, mostly from the North Vietnamese 320th Division, have moved on to attack several additional Ranger camps and artillery bases north and south of the provincial capital. They captured Plei Djereng Ranger Camp west of the city over the weekend. Recently captured prisoners claim that the primary Communist objective in western Pleiku is the capture of the district town of Thanh An.

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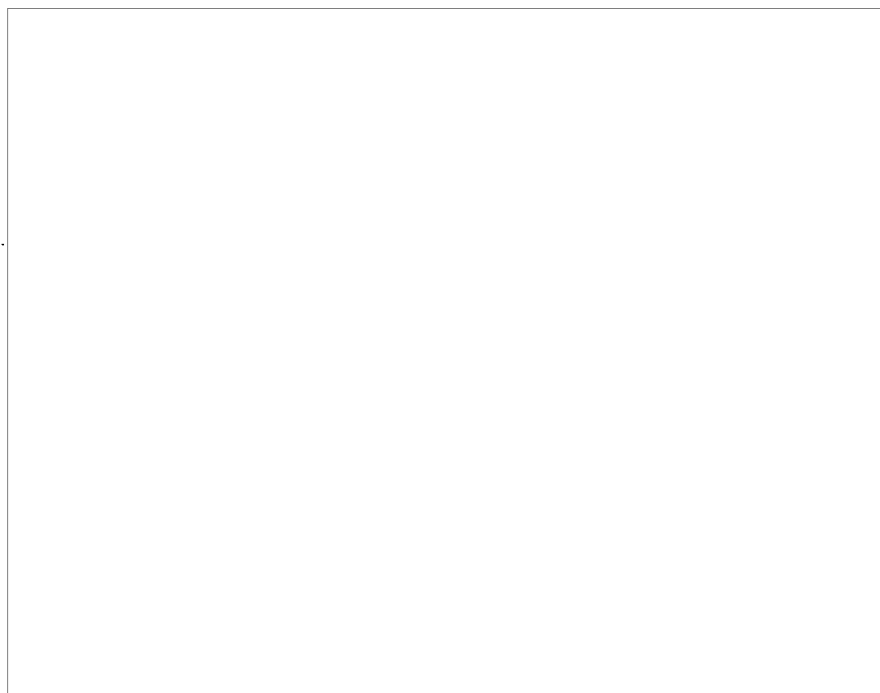
ISRAEL-FEDAYEEN

Tel Aviv seems certain to avenge the murder of Israeli Olympic participants last night. Although the Israelis could allow the outrage in the international community to suffice for the present, domestic sentiment for a response is already mounting. Any reprisal action could be severe, especially since Tel Aviv refrained from retaliation following the Lod Airport massacre last May.

Potential targets include fedayeen installations in Lebanon and Syria, particularly those sites known by the Israelis to be occupied by Fatah. *(Fatah uses the Black September organization as a cover name for its terrorist actions)*

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The Israelis could also choose to strike directly at their Arab neighbors on grounds that they serve as hosts of the commandos and are, therefore, responsible for their actions. There are several thousand guerrillas harbored in southern Lebanon, the site of previous Israeli military reactions, and still other thousands residing near Dara in Syria.



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NOTES

Japan-US: Japanese officials are worried that recent leftist-inspired opposition to US military activities in Japan may spread [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The government is especially sensitive to opposition charges that such shipments are evidence that the US is using its bases in Japan to support its military action in Vietnam. The Japanese are seeking to resolve the difficulties with the local authorities, but are also moving to strengthen behind-the-scenes co-ordination with the US.

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USSR-Cuba: [REDACTED]

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